

## **Paper 02 – Members’ resolution re: Wally Downes**

### **PAPER 02 – MEMBERS’ RESOLUTIONS REGARDING THE DEPARTURE OF WALLY DOWNES AS MANAGER OF AFC WIMBLEDON**

The following members’ resolutions were submitted to the Trust Secretary in accordance with rule 23 of the Society’s rules. You can find the rules at <http://thedonstrust.org/constitution/>

These resolutions were submitted by Xavier Wiggins and have also been supported by Dons Trust members Graeme Price, Stephen Chandler, Jeremy Stacey, Lou Carton-Kelly and Jonny Whitehead.

#### **Resolution 2**

“We believe that it is essential for the owners of the football club to be given clarity around the process that was followed that led to Wally Downes being removed from his managerial role. We move for full disclosure.”

#### **Resolution 3**

“We believe it is essential for the owners of the football club to have clarity as to how our elected representatives voted in the matter of the removal of Wally Downes as manager. We move for full disclosure.”

#### **Dons Trust Board position and recommendation**

The Dons Trust board recognises that Trust members, and indeed the wider fanbase, will naturally be very interested to understand the chain of events when a first team manager departs from their role. We also understand that, in a fan-owned club, we should be as transparent in our decision-making as possible.

However, we need to balance transparency against our responsibilities as an employer. Employees generally do not expect the details of their discussions with their employer to be made public. Furthermore, in the case of Wally Downes, it was specifically agreed with Wally that the club would make no further public statement about either his departure or the betting charges.

Having taken legal advice on these members’ resolutions, the board therefore recommends that members should vote against the above resolutions, since full disclosure of the process would go against our legal obligations.

However, we should clarify that Wally was not "removed" from his role. He was not dismissed. The agreement was entered into mutually and Wally accepted the terms. He was given independent legal advice prior to signing the agreement.

We reproduce overleaf the text of the announcement the club made on 20 October.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.afcwimbledon.co.uk/news/2019/october/club-statement-wally-downes/>

## **Club statement: Wally Downes**

20 October 2019

### **AFC Wimbledon has today reached an agreement to part company with first-team manager Wally Downes.**

Wally leaves on mutually agreed terms and with our sincerest gratitude for his time with the club, especially his invaluable contribution last season. The agreement was reached with the approval of the Dons Trust board.

The club and Dons Trust boards suspended Wally last month when the FA announced it had charged him with alleged betting contraventions, with assistant manager Glyn Hodges placed in temporary control of first-team affairs.

While Wally’s FA disciplinary process concluded last week, the boards believe that a change of first-team manager is the best option to help the club maintain its recent upturn in performances.

Naturally, Wally leaves with our sincerest best wishes for the future and his place in our club’s history - as both a player and manager - assured. In particular, Wally’s legacy can be found in the young vibrant squad we see on the pitch today, his attention to the financial constraints of the club and ensuring we maintained financial sustainability and laying the foundations for a squad capable of achieving a healthier league position.

Under the terms of the agreement reached with Wally, we will be making no further public statement about either his departure or the betting charges. We are pleased that Glyn Hodges will continue as caretaker manager.